Import Registration of Drugs

*539. SHRI MUNAWAR HASAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the requirement of import registration of drugs has been deferred by three months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) by when Government propose to start the implementation of the registration requirements; and

(d) the total number of applications pending for import registration and by when Drug Control Officers will be abie to complete this registration?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The applicability date of Notification No. GSR 604 (E) dated 24.8.2001 for registration and import of drugs in India was 1 st January 2003, which was extended upto 31.3.2003 due to logistical difficulties expressed by the Indian Pharma Industries Associations as it concerns major transitions from the earsier provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules. The new Registration provisions are in force from 1.4.2003.

As of 22.4.2003, 156 applications for registration are pending for evaluation. 75 applications have been found deficient for which the applicants have been advised for compliance. Receipt of applications is a continuous process. The rules provide for nine months for disposal.

Legal provisions for safety of handicapped persons

†*540. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the existing provisions of law in respect of safety of the handicapped are adequate;

(b) whether Government have received any representation to amend the existing penal code and other laws for the safety of the handicapped;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hind:.